

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 14295 01 OF 02 261747Z

56

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01

ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 AF-08 ARA-06 NEA-10 /110 W

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R 261735Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1359

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14295

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS: U.S. VIEWS ON
ROLE OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT

REF: STATE 208183

1. SUMMARY. EMBOFF EXPLAINED U.S. CONCERNS WITH
APPROACH TO COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS TAKEN BY UNCTAD
SECRETARIAT TO MFA AND ECONMIN OFFICIALS. THEY AGREED
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PAGE 02 BONN 14295 01 OF 02 261747Z

WITH U.S. VIEWS ON UTILIZING EXISTING COMMODITY GROUPS

AND ON LIMITING PARTICIPATION, BUT WERE SKEPTICAL ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF OUR GETTING VERY FAR, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO USE OF FAO GROUPS. THEY BELIEVED THAT EFFORTS TO MOVE FORWARD DATE OF FIRST MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE AND TO GIVE MORE EMPHASIS TO THIS COMMITTEE RUN THE DANGER OF GIVING G-77 ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH GUIDING PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS IN GENERAL, AND PERHAPS TO PURSUE COMMON FUND AND INDEXATION CONCEPTS. THEY REGARD THIS DANGER AS OUTWEIGHING ANY BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE OBTAINED ON PROCEDURAL ISSUES. END SUMMARY.

2. ROLE OF EXISTING GROUPS. KOINZER, WHO DIRECTS ECONMIN OFFICE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY, AND WEINDER IN OFFICE FOR COMMODITY POLICY EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH U.S. POSITION. HOWEVER, KOINZER DOUBTED WE WOULD GET VERY FAR IN RESTRICTING THE AUTHORITY TO CONVENE COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS WHICH WAS GIVEN COREA BY THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION. IN SEPARATE DISCUSSION WITH EMBOFF, SPENGLER (MFA OFFICE FOR UN ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) WAS PARTICULARLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT UTILIZATION OF FAO STUDY GROUPS. AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, THE FAO SECRETARIAT HAS SHOWN LITTLE INTEREST IN EXPANDING THE ROLE OF THESE GROUPS, NOR WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE AT THE LAST WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING.

3. LIMITATION OF PARTICIPATION IN UNCTAD GROUPS. FRG OFFICIALS HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO THIS ISSUE. KOINZER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT ANY FORCEFUL EFFORT TO LIMIT PARTICIPATION BY U.S. OR BY GROUP OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES WOULD EVOKE A BACKLASH BY RADICAL LDCS. EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN OVERCOMING G-77 OPPOSITION, WE WOULD ENCOUNTER SITUATION ANALOGOUS TO CIEC IN WHICH LDCS CHOSEN TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMODITY GROUPS WOULD VIEW THEMSELVES AS REPRESENTATIVES OF G-77 AND WOULD ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE PERSUADED BY RADICAL LDCS TO TAKE MORE RADICAL POSITIONS THAN THEY WOULD IF LEFT TO THEIR OWN DEVICES. KOINZER NOTED THAT IT HAS BEEN COMMON PRACTICE IN PREVIOUS COMMODITY FORA TO SET UP SMALL WORKING GROUPS, AND THOUGHT THAT IF WE RESTRICTED OUR EFFORTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BONN 14295 01 OF 02 261747Z

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PAGE 01 BONN 14295 02 OF 02 261748Z

56

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STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 /110 W

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 14295

TO LOW-KEY REPRESENTATIONS IN THE SEPARATE COMMODITY
GROUPS, WE WOULD HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF OBTAINING
PRODUCER SUPPORT FOR FORMATION OF WORKING
GROUPS WITH RESTRICTED PARTICIPATION.

4. ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE. IT WAS STRONG
VIEW OF BOTH ECONMIN AND MFA OFFICIALS THAT CONSUMER
COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION TO ENHANCE THE
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PAGE 02 BONN 14295 02 OF 02 261748Z

ROLE OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. THEY PERCEIVE DANGER THAT RADICAL LDCS WILL USE MEETINGS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH GUIDING PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO CONSULTATIONS IN ALL OF THE COMMODITY GROUPS, AND TO PRESS FORWARD THEIR VIEWS ON INDEXATION AND COMMON FUND. WHEREAS IN GROUPS DEALING WITH INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES WE CAN TURN ASIDE SUCH INTERVENTIONS ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY ARE NOT GERMANE, WE COULD NOT DO SO IN AD HOC COMMITTEE. SPENGLER POINTED OUT THAT COREA'S TIMETABLE HAS FIRST MEETING ON COMMON FUND SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER WITH NO FURTHER MEETINGS SCHEDULED IN DECEMBER. SPENGLER DOUBTS THAT MORE THAN ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL MEETINGS COULD BE HELD PRIOR TO MARCH COMMON FUND CONFERENCE. THIS SCHEDULE HARDLY OFFERS SUFFICIENT TIME FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS FOR MARCH SESSION. IN SPENGLER'S VIEW, THIS IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE, AND WE SHOULD AVOID GIVING G-77 ANY OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE MORE ADEQUATELY FOR MARCH SESSION. ON BALANCE, SPENGLER AND ECONMIN OFFICIALS BELIEVE THESE DANGERS OUTWEIGH ANY BENEFITS THAT MIGHT BE OBTAINED ON PROCEDURAL SIDE FROM HOLDING AN EARLIER MEETING OF AD HOC COMMITTEE. ACTION REQUESTED: TO OBTAIN GERMAN SUPPORT FOR OUR INITIATIVE ON AD HOC COMMITTEE, OR AT LEAST NEUTRAL GERMAN STANCE, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO PROVIDE FRG WITH MORE SPECIFIC RATIONALE OF OUR POSITION, INCLUDING EXPLANATION OF HOW WE BELIEVE WE CAN TURN ASIDE EFFORTS BY RADICAL LDCS TO USE THIS COMMITTEE TO THEIR OWN ADVANTAGE.

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